

Application Number 10/656,089
Amendment responsive to Office Action mailed January 5, 2007

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Original): A method comprising:

receiving one or more images of a biological growth medium;

identifying a first number of biological agents associated with an interior portion of the biological growth medium;

identifying a second number of biological agents associated with a perimeter portion of the biological growth medium; and

excluding from the second number one or more biological agents within a defined distance from an edge of a growth area of the growth medium when the first number is less than a threshold.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 11, further comprising excluding from the second number the one or more biological agents within the defined distance from the edge of the growth area of the growth medium when the first number is less than a threshold only when the one or more biological agents within the defined distance from the edge define areas smaller than a threshold area.

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Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 11, further comprising:

identifying the first number as first color biological agents associated with the interior portion of the biological growth medium;

identifying a third number of second color biological agents associated with the interior portion of the biological growth medium;

identifying the second number as first color biological agents associated with a perimeter portion of the biological growth medium;

identifying a fourth number of second color biological agents associated with the perimeter portion of the biological growth medium;

excluding from the second number of first color biological agents one or more first color biological agents within the defined distance from the edge of the growth area of the growth medium when the first number of the first color biological agents is less than the threshold and the one or more first color biological agents within the defined distance define areas smaller than a threshold area; and

excluding from the fourth number of second color biological agents one or more second color biological agents within the defined distance from the edge of the growth area of the growth medium when the third number of the second color biological agents is less than the threshold and the one or more second color biological agents within the defined distance define areas smaller than the threshold area.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 13, wherein the biological agents comprise bacterial colonies and wherein the first color comprises red and the second color comprises blue.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 11, wherein the interior portion comprises approximately 75 percent of the growth area of the growth medium and the perimeter portion comprises approximately 25 percent of the growth area of the growth medium.

Claims 16-18 (Canceled).

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Claim 19 (Original): A method comprising:

receiving one or more images of a biological growth medium;

identifying a first number of biological agents associated with an interior portion of the biological growth medium;

identifying a second number biological agents associated with a perimeter portion of the biological growth medium; and

flagging the biological growth medium for additional review if the second number is greater than a factor multiplied by the first number.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 19, wherein the factor is approximately 1.5.

Claim 21 (Original): The method of claim 19, wherein the biological growth medium is a Petri plate, the biological agents comprise bacterial colonies and flagging the biological growth medium for additional review comprises flagging the biological growth medium for review by a technician.

Claim 22 (Original): The method of claim 19, wherein the interior portion comprises approximately 75 percent of a growth area of the growth medium and the perimeter portion comprise approximately 25 percent of the growth area of the growth medium.

Claims 23-32 (Canceled)

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Claim 33 (Original): A computer readable medium comprising computer readable instructions that when executed in a processor:

receive one or more images of a biological growth medium;

identify a first number of biological agents associated with an interior portion of the biological growth medium;

identify a second number of biological agents associated with a perimeter portion of the biological growth medium; and

exclude from the second number one or more biological agents within a defined distance from an edge of a growth area of the growth medium when the first number is less than a threshold.

Claim 34 (Original): The computer readable medium of claim 33, wherein the instructions when executed exclude from the second number the one or more biological agents within the defined distance from the edge of the growth area of the growth medium when the first number is less than a threshold only when the one or more biological agents within the defined distance from the edge define areas smaller than a threshold area.

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Claim 35 (Original): The computer readable medium of claim 33, wherein the instructions when executed:

identify the first number as first color biological agents associated with the interior portion of the biological growth medium;

identify a third number of second color biological agents associated with the interior portion of the biological growth medium;

identify the second number as first color biological agents associated with a perimeter portion of the biological growth medium;

identify a fourth number of second color biological agents associated with the perimeter portion of the biological growth medium;

exclude from the second number of first color biological agents one or more first color biological agents within the defined distance from the edge of the growth area of the growth medium when the first number of the first color biological agents is less than the threshold and the one or more first color biological agents within the defined distance define areas smaller than a threshold area; and

exclude from the fourth number of second color biological agents one or more second color biological agents within the defined distance from the edge of the growth area of the growth medium when the third number of the second color biological agents is less than the threshold and the one or more second color biological agents within the defined distance define areas smaller than the threshold area.

Claim 36 (Original): The computer readable medium of claim 35, wherein the biological agents comprise bacterial colonies and wherein the first color comprises red and the second color comprises blue.

Claim 37 (Original): The computer readable medium of claim 35, wherein the interior portion comprises approximately 75 percent of the growth area of the growth medium and the perimeter portion comprises approximately 25 percent of the growth area of the growth medium.

Claims 38-40 (Canceled).

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Claim 41 (Original): A computer readable medium comprising computer readable instructions that when executed in a processor:

receive one or more images of a biological growth medium;

identify a first number of biological agents associated with an interior portion of the biological growth medium;

identify a second number biological agents associated with a perimeter portion of the biological growth medium; and

flag the biological growth medium for additional review if the second number is greater than a factor multiplied by the first number.

Claim 42 (Original): The computer readable medium of claim 41, wherein the factor is approximately 1.5.

Claim 43 (Original): The computer readable medium of claim 41, wherein the biological growth medium is a Petri plate, the biological agents comprise bacterial colonies and the instructions when executed flag the biological growth medium for review by a technician if first number is greater than a factor multiplied by the second number.

Claim 44 (Original): The computer readable medium of claim 41, wherein the interior portion comprises approximately 75 percent of a growth area of the growth medium and the perimeter portion comprise approximately 25 percent of the growth area of the growth medium.

Claims 45-53 (Canceled).

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Claim 54 (Original): A system comprising:

an imaging device to generate one or more images of a biological growth medium; and
a processor to receive the images, identify a first number of biological agents associated with an interior portion of the biological growth medium, identify a second number of biological agents associated with a perimeter portion of the biological growth medium, and exclude from the second number one or more biological agents within a defined distance from an edge of a growth area of the growth medium when the first number is less than a threshold.

Claim 55 (Original): The system of claim 54, wherein the processor, excludes from the second number the one or more biological agents within the defined distance from the edge of the growth area of the growth medium when the first number is less than a threshold only when the one or more biological agents within the defined distance from the edge define areas smaller than a threshold area.

Claim 56 (Original): The system of claim 54, wherein the processor identifies the first number as first color biological agents associated with the interior portion of the biological growth medium, identifies a third number of second color biological agents associated with the interior portion of the biological growth medium, identifies the second number as first color biological agents associated with a perimeter portion of the biological growth medium, identifies a fourth number of second color biological agents associated with the perimeter portion of the biological growth medium, excludes from the second number of first color biological agents one or more first color biological agents within the defined distance from the edge of the growth area of the growth medium when the first number of the first color biological agents is less than the threshold and the one or more first color biological agents within the defined distance define areas smaller than a threshold area, and excludes from the fourth number of second color biological agents one or more second color biological agents within the defined distance from the edge of the growth area of the growth medium when the third number of the second color biological agents is less than the threshold and the one or more second color biological agents within the defined distance define areas smaller than the threshold area.

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Claim 57 (Original): The system of claim 54, wherein the interior portion comprises approximately 75 percent of the growth area of the growth medium and the perimeter portion comprises approximately 25 percent of the growth area of the growth medium.

Claims 58-59 (Canceled).

Claim 60 (Original): A system comprising:

an imaging device to generate one or more images of a biological growth medium; and
a processor to receive the images, identify a first number of biological agents associated with an interior portion of the biological growth medium, identify a second number biological agents associated with a perimeter portion of the biological growth medium, and flag the biological growth medium for additional review if the second number is greater than a factor multiplied by the first number.

Claim 61 (Original): The system of claim 60, wherein the factor is approximately 1.5, the interior portion comprises approximately 75 percent of a growth area of the growth medium and the perimeter portion comprise approximately 25 percent of the growth area of the growth medium.